

BLIND, YET A DANCER

Comedian Kept His Secret for Eighteen Months.

REMARKABLE COURAGE SHOWN

Neither Managers Nor Audience Aware of Lost Sight as Man Feared He Would Lose Position—When His Blindness Is Made Known He Becomes Greater Attraction.

London, Feb. 1.—Every night at Collins' Music Hall, Islington, and the Empress Theater, Brixton, the twinkling feet of Walker and May, colored comedians and dancers, win thunders of applause.

The woman comes forward to bow and smile. The man's bold, intelligent eyes roam over the house as though he appreciated the flicker of every clapping hand. But he can see nothing, for he is blind.

The dancing of Walker and May would, in any case, be amazing. It is almost unaccountable when one knows that the man dances in utter darkness. Behind this dancing in darkness there is hidden a story of amazing pluck and stoicism. Walker always danced. Even in the days when he was a pickaninny there was laughter in his feet. He danced as one who loved dancing. He had a genius for dancing. He made a reputation for dancing in two hemispheres.

Then suddenly, when he was in Australia, in the heyday of his prosperity, all the light and, as it seemed to him, all the dancing of his life were suddenly shut out. Atrophy of the optic nerve blinded him almost instantly. It was as though all the brilliant lights of the theater had been suddenly turned down and he was dancing in darkness behind an impenetrable fireproof curtain.

For a few hours he suffered unspeakable agony. It seemed to him that his profession was gone, and that starvation could be his only end. All his life he had amused people. No one had been able to resist the light-hearted ease of his dancing.

It had been in his heart to go on dancing and causing delight so long as he could dance.

Splendid Courage. But in the darkness that encompassed him so suddenly he wrestled with himself, and in spite of his blindness he had the courage, the audacity, to determine to go on being "funny."

He had engagements at several music halls in London, but, thinking that no manager would engage him if he knew the secret of his blindness, he made up his mind not to give it away; and he did not, in fact, tell his wife until crossing the gangway from the ship on which he sailed for England. While on the voyage he found his way by keeping close to her and touching her elbow with his, and when he blundered into people he made a joke of it.

There was nothing to show that he was blind. His eyes had the look of ordinary eyes, and his smile was as ready as ever. Soon after his arrival in England he went to the Brixton Music Hall, and without any practice gave his usual turn. He walked quite naturally to the stage by the side of his wife and danced elaborate con dances and cakewalks without a mistake. The second part of the turn was with his wife, and here again he accomplished the feat of dancing and singing and talking humorous dialogue without any one in the audience knowing he was blind.

His wife helped him by saying occasionally under her breath, "One step this way," or "Not so far back," and also by lightly touching him to show him where she was. Any one who shuts his eyes and tries to sing and dance and carry on an animated humorous dialogue with some one else in a confined space will realize the difficulty of this.

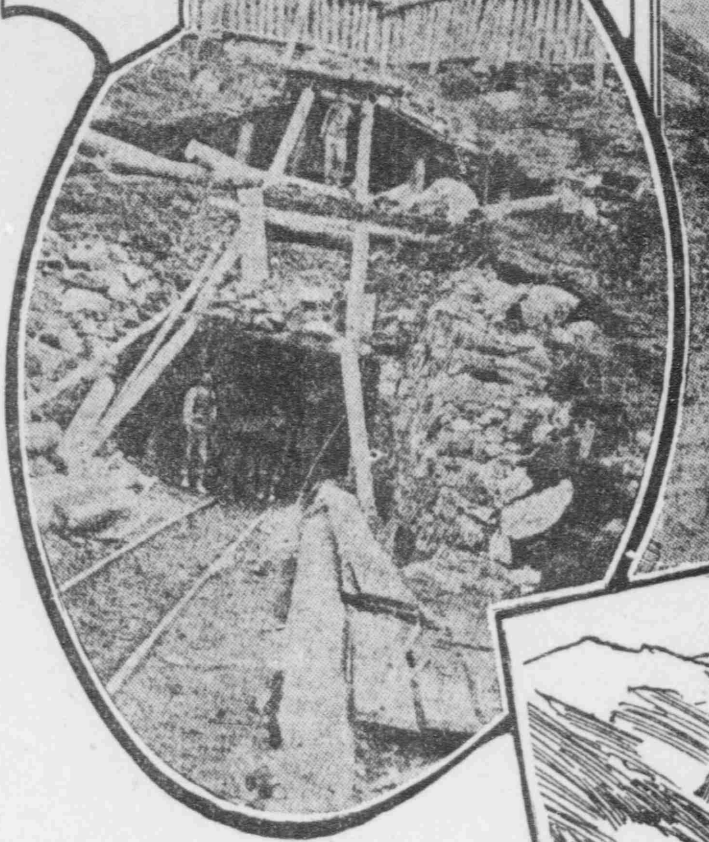
Help from the Orchestra. For eighteen months he earned a living in this way, and no one up to then knew that he was blind. He was able to do it by knowing the position of every musical instrument in the orchestra. While the orchestra was playing he felt safe, as he knew from the sounds of the musical instruments exactly where he was. When the orchestra was silent he moved about as little as possible.

As he got on the stage he tapped the drop curtain with his hand, and then boldly walked forward into darkness—smiling, and for nearly a quarter of an hour he danced about the stage, and walked backward and forward, and laughed and sang in darkness.

It was only at the end of eighteen months that he told the manager of a music hall that he was blind. In his simplicity he had never thought that as a blind comedian he was worth more money.

The result is that Walker now appears frankly as blind. But no one in the audience can detect it. And any day in London he can be seen stumbling along the streets led by an attendant—a pathetic, serious figure.

Mouth of the Tunnel as far as Constructed



KING CAUSED DEATH

Leopold's Impatience Brings Premier from Sickbed.

STORMY INTERVIEW FOLLOWED

His Majesty Demanded that Statesman Should Sign Document Confirming Duke's Son of King's Mergantonic Marriage—Premier Refused to Comply.

Berlin, Feb. 1.—The following remarkable story has been communicated to the press by a personage connected with King Leopold's court.

Two days before the death of M. de Trooz, on December 31, the King, on his return from Paris, summoned him to the palace. The premier, who was severely ill with gout, replied that he was unable to leave his room, as he could not walk. King Leopold thereupon sent his motor car to the premier's residence, and M. de Trooz got out of bed and proceeded to the palace in the car.

When he entered the King's apartment his majesty reproached him with great violence for not having taken a more friendly attitude with regard to the bill for the transfer of the Congo Free State to Belgium.

His majesty then demanded that the premier should sign, on behalf of the government, a document confirming a duke-dominion on the elder son of the King's morganatic marriage. M. de Trooz refused to sign on the ground that he had not the assent of his colleagues, and that such a proceeding might improperly interfere with the interests of other members of the King's family.

The King became violent, and the interview terminated in a stormy scene. When M. de Trooz returned home he was feverish, and next night, during a delirium, tried to get out of bed to work on the Congo question. He died next day.

The King did not call on the premier's widow, but yesterday his youngest daughter, the Princess Clementine, paid her a visit and thanked her for what her husband did in the interests of the King's legitimate children.

The King was angry on hearing of the visit, and sent a letter of remonstrance to the princess.

ANARCHISTS' BOMB AS SAFE.

Bank Notes Worth \$3,000 Found in Missile Dropped by Police.

Paris, Feb. 1.—A well-known anarchist named Houdayer died a month ago at Le Mans, and in his room was found a suspicious-looking case, which the police promptly plunged into cold water.

The case, which was believed to be a bomb, was opened yesterday with great precaution. It contained \$3,000 in bank notes and savings bank book for \$300 more. The money will be inherited by Houdayer's brother, who is also an anarchist.



A PAIR OF ROYAL LOVERS.

The latest engagement announced in the royal circles of Europe is that of Prince Wilhelm of Sweden to the Russian Grandduchess Marie Pavlovna. The prince is now at Moscow on a visit to his fiancée. The marriage will take place at St. Petersburg about the middle of June.

ANOTHER TUNNEL UNDER SNOWCLAD PEAKS OF THE MIGHTY ALPS.

This great passageway goes across the Bernese Alps, from the Valley of the Rhone to Bern. It is intended to partly, but not wholly, shorten the route from Milan to Central Europe and between the Italian ports and those of the Atlantic. The work of construction of the road and the tunnel through the Loetschberg has now

been in progress for a year, and should be completed by 1911. The line will be about fifty kilometers in length. At that part of its course where it rises about 1,200 meters above the level of the sea it enters the Loetschberg tunnel. From opening to opening, this will measure 13,735 meters. From here it gradually descends through a number of smaller

tunnels until it reaches Briga, twenty-two kilometers from the southern face of the Loetschberg. Although the work of excavation was very much retarded by heavy snows and intense cold, the main tunnel has been excavated a distance of 1,381 meters. About 3,000 workmen are engaged on the line, which, it is expected, will cost 40,000,000 francs.

MISSING COUNTESS A SUICIDE

Had Declared that She Preferred Death to a Life of Shame.

Morphia Her Weapon When Family Scandal Brings Them Face to Face with Poverty.

Vienna, Feb. 1.—Another act in a long-drawn-out tragedy which has overtaken one of the most distinguished aristocratic families in Austria, is brought to light by the following police notice, published in Vienna to-day.

"Countess Felicia Mazuchella, nineteen years old, brown hair, blue eyes, black jacket, black fur collar. Missing from home since January 10. Believed to have committed suicide."

The young countess is the daughter and granddaughter of distinguished military men, and is remarkable for her personal beauty. Her father committed suicide owing to domestic troubles some years ago on January 11, and it is believed that she has taken her life on the anniversary of his death.

After her father's death, her mother married Capt. von Carina, an Austrian officer, who four years ago was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment for selling military secrets to a foreign power. Extravagance in household expenses was alleged to be the cause of his crime.

The young countess' brother was forced to leave the army, and relatives avoided the family, who fell into the direst poverty.

The Countess Felicia declared that she could bear the shame no longer. She left home, having in her possession a bottle of morphia. The police believe that she took the poison somewhere on the outskirts of the city, and that her body will be found when the snow melts.

KAISER TO PURGE ARMY.

Even Officers on Retired List Will Be Subjected to Investigation.

Berlin, Feb. 1.—According to the Neue Gesellschaftliche Correspondenz, a news agency enjoying confidential relations with Prince Buelow, a number of sensational new military scandals have come to light, of a character similar to the charges on which Counts Hohenhausen and Lynar are now undergoing a court-martial at Potsdam.

Investigation is pending, it says, in regard to two officers on the active list, and several others who have been placed on the "disposition list," with full honors, including the right to wear uniforms and draw pensions. A number of the latter left active service several years ago. The names of the officers concerned will not for the present be disclosed.

These proceedings are taken, it is added, in consequence of the order which the Emperor gave his commanding generals on New Year's Day to purge the army.

GROWS OLD; ENDS LIFE.

Grieved at the Ravages of Time, Baroness Blows Out Her Brains.

Budapest, Feb. 1.—Baroness von Schwitzer, a millionaire, and once a famous Roumanian beauty, committed suicide yesterday at Craiova because she realized that she was beginning to look old.

The baroness was the daughter of a small shopkeeper, but her extraordinary beauty captivated the heart of a wealthy Russian, Count Tallewitch, who married her when she was sixteen years old.

When she was forty the count died, leaving her a fortune of over \$5,000,000. Shortly afterward she married Baron von Schwitzer, an Austrian nobleman.

The baroness, who recently passed her fiftieth year, had always been very proud of her remarkable beauty, and of late had become very melancholy, owing to the fact that the ravages of time were becoming more and more evident.

So greatly did the loss of her beauty prey on her mind that a few days ago she attempted to poison herself. The effort failed, but she was determined on self-destruction, and yesterday obtained a revolver, with which she blew out her brains.

She left a letter stating that she could not bear to survive her good looks.

JEWELS IN CAB ALL NIGHT

Dublin Police on the Track of "Daring Robbery" Involving \$5,000.

Hue and Cry Useless, as No Clue to the Supposed Criminals Can Be Found.

Dublin, Feb. 1.—Another Dublin jewel mystery was solved yesterday in an amusing fashion.

A sensational affair occurred in Dublin on Tuesday evening—"so ran the first report"—involving the disappearance of a large quantity of jewelry and other valuables to the amount of about £1,000, the property of an English lady visitor to Dublin."

It appears that a party, eight in number, left Lansdowne on Tuesday on a visit to Ireland. When they arrived at Westland row a number of cabs were engaged to convey the party and their belongings to a hotel in Upper Sackville street.

Among the travelers was a woman named Mrs. Carrington, of Leyland, near Preston, who carried a number of articles of jewelry and other valuable property in a large dressing case. This was placed along with the other luggage in the cabs, but when the luggage was taken out of the conveyance the case with its costly contents was, to the consternation of its owner, not to be found.

The police were at once communicated with, a full description of the missing articles circulated, and an energetic search for the supposed robber began.

But it was all in vain, for the clever thief had not left a single clue.

And then, Thursday morning, a cabman—the cabman—drove up to the hotel and handed over an insignificant-looking packet, which, he said, he had just found in his cab. Great was the joy of the woman from Leyland, for in that packet was the lost jewelry.

The packet had remained in the cab all night, and was discovered only when the cabman went to his stables Thursday morning.

YOUNG HEIRESS JILTS SIX.

Disappears from Home on Morning Fixed for Wedding with Seventh.

Budapest, Feb. 1.—Frauella Bertha Seligman, a young woman of great wealth, living with her mother on a large estate near here, has mystified her friends by suddenly disappearing on her wedding morning.

Although only eighteen years of age, she had already broken six engagements, having on each occasion sent to the discomfited lover a check for \$500 as compensation.

Two months ago, at a friend's house, she met a young doctor, who was fascinated by her beauty and wit. He wrote to her, saying that though he could never hope to marry her, he felt he must at least tell her that he loved her and always would. She wired back, "Why not?" which promptly brought him to her feet.

It is believed that she took the express train for Paris.

CHINA WANTS MORE TRADE.

Imperial Commission to Investigate Conditions in Europe.

London, Feb. 1.—Chinese Imperial Special Commissioner Yang Ship Chi will be in Europe shortly, looking for commercial hints which might be advantageously applied to the Celestial Kingdom's trade system. Six high officials are with him, several of whom were educated in Europe or the United States.

Commissioner Yang is minister of agriculture, industry, and commerce when he is at home, and an exceptionally wide-awake and progressive Oriental despite his sixty years.

He and his suite have already investigated conditions in Siam and the Strait Settlements, and are looking over the situation in Java now. When they are through there they will sail from Penang for Europe and return home by way of the United States and Japan.

100 WIVES CLAIM HIM

World's Champion Bigamist Arrested in Scotland.

SOUGHT FOR IN MANY LANDS

Arthur Hyne Held on Charge of Defrauding a Woman Out of Ten Thousand Dollars—His Method Was to Advertise for Correspondent with Matrimony as Object.

Edinburgh, Feb. 1.—Arthur Hyne, alias Albert Bessner, a man who is alleged to have a hundred wives, was arrested in Aberdeen yesterday and handed over to the Bristol police on the charge of defrauding a woman, whom he had married there, of \$10,000.

Hyne, who is a German Jew, is alleged to have gone through the ceremony of marriage with a large number of women, and he is wanted on several charges of bigamy.

He was released some time ago on bail of \$1,000 and absconded. As Hyne was entering the train, in charge of the police, the woman with whom he had been living in Aberdeen asked, pitifully: "When shall I see you again?"

Feared He Would Be Arrested. "Don't worry me," he replied sharply, "I am likely to get five years at Bristol. I am wanted elsewhere and in America, and you can figure it out for yourself."

The poor woman turned away trembling and in a state of collapse. Hyne, who denies that he is Witchoff, the champion bigamist, whose matrimonial adventures caused a sensation a year ago, originally followed the calling of a chemist. It is alleged that in the course of his career he has visited many countries, and, having a good presence and being well dressed and neatly groomed, he has always been a "ladies' man."

He wooed and won many of them, giving them up one after the other when he had secured not only their affections, but their money.

It is stated that one of Hyne's adventures was his marriage to a woman in Bristol, from whom he is charged with obtaining money by false pretenses.

He is also "wanted" at Bristol on a charge of bigamy. It was in connection with these charges that he was brought before the court there.

The case was adjourned until December 12, the man undertaking to surrender on that date.

He absconded, and the police have been searching for him ever since.

Had Densitary Business. Hyne carried on business in Bristol as a dentist, and he was well known in the city. Those connected with him in business could give no clue as to his whereabouts, and it was left to the Aberdeen city police to discover him in a house in Mount street, where he was residing with a reputed wife and two children he had brought with him from the south.

The woman who accompanied him to the north is not the one he married in Bristol.

It is stated that he is "wanted" in Manchester on charges of obtaining money and goods on false pretenses. He is also "wanted" by the American police, who say that they have more than one charge against him.

One of his methods is stated to be to advertise asking women to correspond with him, and he has a weakness for widows. One condition invariably observed by him is that women entering into correspondence with him must possess means.

It is believed that numerous letters were received by Hyne from women, but whether he succeeded in inducing any of his correspondents to agree to marriage or to give him money on the understanding that a wedding would come off is not yet known.

Magnificent Gift to Sanatorium. London, Feb. 1.—The Seaford Sanatorium, which has been built by Col. and Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie for the free treatment of consumptives in Ross and Cromarty, and which the founders have endowed to the extent of \$50,000, was opened yesterday. The King sent a telegram wishing the institution success.

Bellringers' Strike. London, Feb. 1.—Oakford, Devon, bellringers have gone on strike because they are expected to attend divine service as well as ring.



GERMANY'S CROWN PRINCE AND CROWN PRINCESS ON A BOB SLEIGH.

Among the many visitors to St. Moritz, none enjoy the winter festivities and sports more keenly than the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Germany. Sleigh riding is their favorite amusement, and this they indulge in every day upon the snow-clad slopes of the foothills around the resort.